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TO: SENATOR GARETH EVANS, FOREIGN MINISTER

I was quite shocked to read, in the Sydney Morning Herald (11 Feb) a remark accredited to you that the Timorese guerillas should "accept the reality of the situation" and surrender. If the report is accurate, this is an appalling remark from the Foreign Minister of this country, a neighbour of East Timor. From *Amnesty International* reports over the past two or three years the reality of the situation is that "surrendered" guerillas have often been summarily executed, or have disappeared, some to prisons to distant parts of Indonesia, if they are still alive - a practice conveyed to me by the present Governor of East Timor, Mario Carrascalao.

Your remark ignores the fact that the armed resistance continues to exist not because a few young Timorese have chosen a life of banditry, but because massive opposition to the integration of East Timor persists, as it does in, say, the Baltic states. It is astonishing that a government, which has so proudly consigned a contingent of its defence forces to help right the grave injustices inflicted on the people of Kuwait, simply cannot bring itself to take a single constructive step towards righting the wrongs suffered by the people of East Timor from an act of aggression equally unjustified and callous in its disregard for the rights of a small nation. Why on earth could you not have encouraged the Indonesians to seek a negotiated settlement, in the same way as we have in the past approached the Tamil problem in Sri Linka? I leave tomorrow for a symposium abroad on the humanitarian consequences of war, with a deep feeling of sadness and shame.

James Dunn 11/2/91